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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/859,410	05/18/2001	Norbert Korenjack	PW 280860	3670
909	7590	01/06/2005	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP			VANAMAN, FRANK BENNETT	
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MCLEAN, VA 22102			3618	

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/859,410	KORENJACK ET AL.	
	Examiner Frank Vanaman	Art Unit 3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23,25-30,32,34-39,46-51 and 55-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 27,30,34-36 and 58 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 23,25,26,28,29,37-39,46,48,50,51,55-57,59 and 60 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 32, 47, 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 12, 2004 has been entered.

Status of Application

2. Claims 23, 25-30, 32, 34-39, 46-51 and 55-60 are pending, claims 55-60 being newly added, claims 24, 31, 33, 40-45 and 52-54 being canceled.

Claims Withdrawn From Consideration

3. Claims 27, 30, 34, 35, and 36 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Newly added claim 58 recites a limitation not illustrated in the figures associated with the elected species (compare to claim 34 for example) and is hereby withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 32, 47 and 49 are objected to for the following informalities: In claim 32, line 4, it is not entirely clear what claim modification is intended by the presence of a horizontal line before "wherein"; in claim 47, line 2, "at least one gears on the intermediate shaft is replaceable" is grammatically informal; in claim 49, line 10, as amended, it appears as though "he" should be --the--.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 37-39, 46, 48, 50, 51, 55-57, 59 and 60 are allowed.
6. Claims 32, 47 and 49 are objected to for minor informalities, but would otherwise be allowable.

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Response to Comments

7. Applicant's comments, filed with the amendment, have been carefully considered. As regards the reference to Kimura, as previously applied against the claims, the examiner agrees that this reference no longer teaches each and every limitation of the claims as currently amended. As regards the treatment of the claims directed to the non-elected species, the examiner notes that claim 23, from which all of the withdrawn claims currently depend, is not generic as it currently stands, and as such, it appears as though the claims withdrawn from consideration should be canceled.

Conclusion

8. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Certain claims are objected to for minor informalities as set forth above, additionally certain claims withdrawn from consideration (election having been made with traverse) should be canceled, there being no allowable generic claim.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Vanaman whose telephone number is 703-308-0424. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

As of May 1, 2003, any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

Or faxed to one of the following fax servers:

Regular Communications/Amendments: 703-872-9326
After Final Amendments: 703-872-9327
Customer Service Communications: 703-872-9325

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. VANAMAN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3618



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Vanaman". Below the signature, the date "1/3/05" is written.